

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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"NN" and mother reunited six weeks after mudslide

BOGOTA, Colombia (BP)—Many people came to know him as "NN" (no name), an 18-month-old child apparently orphaned by a killer mudslide in the Andes Mountains of Colombia.

Now, however, the toddler has a name, Alexis Acuna.

Six weeks after the mudslide destroyed the town of Armero, he was reunited with his teen-age, widowed mother, reports Ellis Leagans, Southern Baptist mission chairman in Colombia.

The mother, Maria Leyla Velandia, remains hospitalized in Bogota with a severe leg injury from the mudslide that killed 25,000 or more people. Alexis is in a private home in Bogota.

The Christmastime reunion was handled by Colombian child welfare authorities.

Alexis became a symbol of the massive tragedy after his picture appeared in *Picture Week* magazine and as many as 700 newspapers across the country. Alexis, his head bandaged and arms outstretched, was crying for "Mami" (Mommy).

The Associated Press intends to nominate his picture, taken by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board photographer Joanna Pinneo, for a Pulitzer Prize, according to George Mikulec, AP deputy news photo editor in New York City.

Velandia and her son were separated after being rescued from the mud and debris that buried Armero. The mother was taken to the state hospital in Ibague, then transferred to a Bogota hospital. The child was treated initially at a small village and then taken to the Ibague hospital, where he was known only as "NN."

Velandia saw her husband, Javier, die from his injuries just before a helicopter came to rescue them the morning of Nov. 15, about 36 hours after the mudslide.

Leagans and his wife, Judy, in visiting Velandia Dec. 30, learned that the mother, her husband, their son, and a two-year-old daughter were in their house as it was destroyed by the mudslide. Velandia was able to hold on to Alexis but her husband lost touch with the daughter. The daughter still is missing.

The toddler's picture resulted in numerous phone calls at Associated Press offices from people wanting to adopt him.

Southern Baptist relief funds continue to provide antibiotics for the mother and various assistance to other Armero survivors.



This toddler, who was thought orphaned by Colombia's killer mudslide Nov. 13, cried for his mother as Southern Baptist missionary Mary Nell Giles entered his hospital room in Ibague. Offered a toy poodle, the child continued to cry until the missionary took him in her arm. This photo, carried nationwide by Associated Press, prompted inquiries about adoption. Now his mother has been located.

What's inside

Editorials, Page 2

Gambling pays off—
for the gambling establishment

Faces and Places, Page 7
Thompson, Bester, Logan

Five new missionaries end worker
drought in Lebanon, Page 3

Crestwood funds will go for
Village use, Page 4

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Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Gambling pays off— for the gambling establishment

Mississippi Baptists should begin to pay attention again to activities revolving around the state Legislature. Remember, we have elected the members of that body, we pay their salaries, and they are there to represent us—not groups of well-financed lobbying organizations which seek sometimes to buy their votes with favors.

It must be noted, however, that if those of us who have chosen them to represent us remain silent, they have very little to go on except for the efforts of the lobbyists.

One major item that we need to be concerned about is a new gambling bill that has been prefiled by Rep. Ralph Doxey of Holly Springs. It is HB 75 and would legalize gambling in the three Gulf Coast counties, Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock. It would establish that "gambling activities otherwise illegal in this state shall be permitted." It has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee. Sonny Meredith is chairman.

The bill means that any kind of gambling except for lottery, which is forbidden by the constitution, would be permissible. It would take a constitutional amendment to legalize a lottery, but don't be surprised if there is such an amendment proposed again this year.

It is well known that gambling activity, even when legal, attracts criminal activity; and so the bill goes to elaborate lengths to establish means to try to hold such actions to a minimum. There is, of course, a sure-fire way of eliminating altogether the criminal activity that

seems to be attracted to gambling operations. That would be not to establish the gambling operations in the first place.

But there are other reasons for not wanting gambling going on in this state. We feel, of course, that it is immoral; but that is a hard point to make with someone who does not hold to our point of view. It is also a fact, however, that gambling preys on those who can least afford it. Those who need the money for something else are the most tempted to use what money they have to get more than they've got. So the state goes into the gambling business to take the money from these folks to ease the tax burden on those who can afford to pay taxes anyway but don't want to. The tax burden is not great on those who are most tempted to get something because they have very little, so the state and the counties would not be losing much when those folks come up without money to pay taxes because of gambling losses. In many cases they have nothing to tax anyway.

The grocery stores might feel the pinch because grocery money is an attractive source of gambling funds.

One other question seems to beg for an answer, but there may be none. Last year we were told that race track gambling in Tunica County would cure that area's financial ills. Tunica County is not included in this bill, however; and one cannot help but wonder, if it was such a good thing for the county last year, why it was not included this year. It is not too late, of

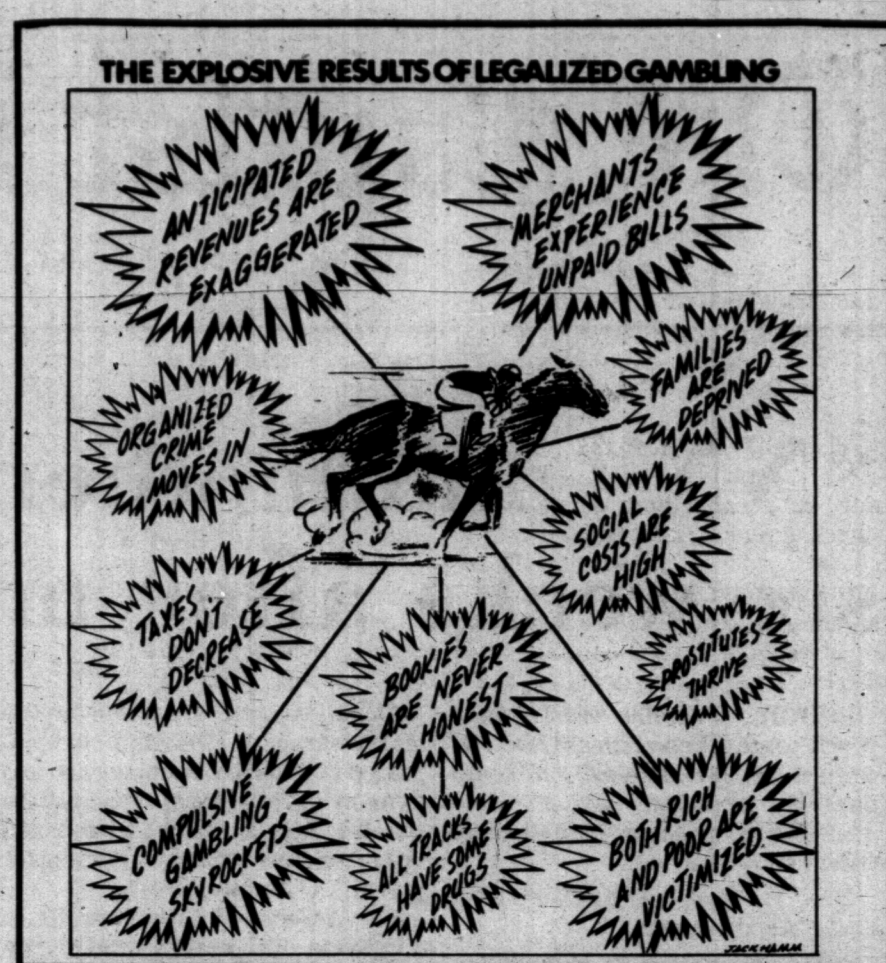
course, and probably will be yet. The gambling interests will use every wile they have at their command. Their approaches for the Gulf Coast area and Tunica County, however, will have to be vastly different. The coast is rather affluent and has a large number of tourists. Tunica County has neither distinction.

The main pitch will be that gambling is a relatively painless way of getting additional tax money. It must be noted, however, that it is also expensive. It would be much more economical just to raise taxes a bit than to go through all of the involvements and expenses and losses that are attached to gambling.

And for the gamblers, it must be noted that they are bound to lose. The state and the gambling establishments have got to win. When one gets right down to it, there really is no gamble. The state and the gambling operators are going to get their money out of what is laid down at the betting windows. The bettors are going to divide the rest, and it is always going to be less than they paid to gamble in the first place.

That makes the odds pretty long. Impossible in fact.

So much for gambling. Another bill that calls for attention is SB 2094, the annual creationism bill by Sen. Emerson Stringer of Columbia. Stringer has not had any success at all in this, though he has introduced it every year for several years. I must admire his persistency, and I must declare that



I agree with him. His bill would demand that when the theory of evolution is taught in public school systems, it must be accompanied by the teaching of creationism. While I surely agree with the concept of creationism and have no truck at all with evolution, I am still not particularly interested in creationism's being taught in public schools. If, however, evolution is to be taught, then I must declare that I feel that creationism must be taught also. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee.

Though the courts seem to disagree, I have agreed with Stringer every year in this matter; and I agree with him this year. Even if the bill would be doomed to failure in a court battle,

I would encourage the Legislature to pass it.

One more bill is HB 78, prefiled by Rep. Charles L. Young of Lauderdale County, which would exempt churches from sales taxes. Young has pointed out that he filed this bill "by request." I hope that whoever requested it was not a Baptist church spokesman. Since it was filed "by request," the bill would seem to have little chance for success, and that is as it should be. When churches buy articles and materials, they should pay sales taxes just as other establishments and citizens do. Churches should not expect a free ride in today's society and economy.

This bill has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Guest opinion . . . Baptists are the key

By Paul Jones

As the 1986 legislature goes into session, the citizens of Mississippi are again confronted with a legislative session filled with the now hacknied arguments by those who desire to legalize gambling in our state. Rep. Ralph Doxey of Holly Springs, in late December, prefiled House Bill (HB) 75 which presupposes that the revenue supposedly generated by gambling would solve the financial problems of the state.

HB 75 is a unique attempt to legalize casino gambling, pari-mutuel gambling on horses and dogs, jai-alai, and other forms of gambling such as bingo and electronic gambling devices in three coast counties—Jackson, Hancock, and Harrison. The bill would establish a gambling "zone" in the state that would be exempted from the statutes prohibiting such activity in the other 79 counties.

Again, the citizens of Mississippi are hearing the erroneous arguments that the solution to the economic woes of the state are found in the "fast buck-no work" mentality of the special interest groups who stand to profit from the legalization of gambling. Are we to seriously believe that casinos, jai-alai frontons, and pari-

mutuel betting windows will dissolve the economic distress caused by long years of inadequate educational standards, ineffectual political leadership, and irresponsible public apathy? Are we really to believe that gambling is the social policy that will restore our state to a place of political, educational, industrial, and economic leadership?

Mississippi Baptists are the key to the defeat of this proposed statute. A letter and a call to representatives and senators will indicate personal displeasure with gambling as a social policy of our state. Words to friends, neighbors, and family should also spur them to contact their elected leadership. A letter to the editor of local newspapers will also give public expression to opposition.

Legislators can be addressed at:

Rep. (or Sen.)
Mississippi State Capitol
Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 948-7321

The role of the citizen Christian is to be leaven to a self-centered society, salt to a bland and lifeless society, and light to a society caught in the darkness of moral and ethical com-

Program-issues on family life divided

Effective Jan. 1 the program aspects of family ministry are under the direction of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board while family life issues will continue to be the responsibility of the Christian Action Commission, according to Earl Kelly and Paul Jones who issued the joint announcement.

Kelly is executive secretary-treasurer of the MBCB, Jones is executive director-treasurer of the CAC.

The programs of family ministry include all those that relate to the Baptist Sunday School Board Family Ministry department such as marriage enrichment, parent enrichment, senior adults, single adults, Christian home emphasis, Gulfshore family programs, church family ministry, associational family ministry, and Church Study Course on the family.

According to Chester Vaughn, program director of the Convention Board, these programs for the present

promise. As citizen-Christians, we are called upon to confront those who would compromise the character of our society for personal self-interest.

Paul Jones, director, The Christian Action Commission.

will be administered by J. Clark Hensley as a contract consultant, housed in the Church Training Department.

Jones initiated this division of responsibility. "Since 1964 most of the Family Programs as well as the issues have been carried by the Commission. In the last decade both the program aspects and the issues concerning family have broadened significantly, which dictated the wisdom of the decision by the Commission and the Executive Committee of the Convention Board," said Jones.

Among the family issues addressed by the Commission are ageism, ecology, gambling, alcohol and drug abuse, abortion, changing roles of women, child abuse, hunger, pornography, television use and abuse, war and peace, suicide, homosexuality, divorce, sex education, drunk driving, inflation, and certain citizenship and church-state issues. Jones will have visibility in the Gulfshore and other family conferences conducted by the Convention Board, but all the program conferences will be planned and directed by the family ministry consultant.

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Six Acteens selected for state advisory panel

Six Acteens from across the state have been chosen to serve on the Mississippi Acteens Advisory Panel for 1986, according to Jan Cossitt, interim Acteens consultant for Mississippi WMU.

The panel will assist and advise in Acteens work in the state. Panelists must be a sophomore or above in school, active in Acteens, involved in Stuidact, and must attend one or more state-sponsored Acteen activities during the year. Panelists are available to churches, associations, and districts for speaking, teaching mission study books, and leading conferences. Churches, associations, or districts will be responsible for these activities.

A committee of five associational Acteens directors from different areas of the state selected the following Acteens to serve on the 1986 Advisory

Panel.

Sara Elizabeth Barker, a junior from Gautier, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barker and is a member of First Baptist Church, Gautier. She is working on her Queen-Regent-in-Service level in Stuidact.

Stephanie Suzanne Hamilton is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Hamilton of Carthage. She is in the 10th grade and is a member of First Baptist Church, where her father is pastor. Stephanie is active in school activities as well as church organizations. She is working on Queen-Regent-in-Service level in Stuidact.

Kelly Langford is a senior from Collins, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Langford. She is a member of Mt. Horeb Church where she has been a member of Acteens for five years. She is working on the Mississippi Citation, the highest level in Stuidact.



Lewis



Moss



Langford



Barker



Shaw



Hamilton

Lisa Lewis, from Meridian, is the daughter of Mrs. Jack S. Lewis. She is a member of First Baptist Church and is working on her Service Aide level of Stuidact. She is president of her junior class and vice president of the Beta Club.

Kelly Moss, from Clinton, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Moss. She is a tenth-grader and a member of Morrison Heights Church. She has been a member of Acteens for four years and is presently working on Queen-Regent-in-Service level of

Stuidact.

Lee Shaw is a junior from Pascagoula, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shaw. She is a member of Parkway Church, where she is working on her Queen-Regent level of Stuidact.

The Baptist Record

Five new missionaries end worker drought in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Five Southern Baptist missionaries have begun language study in Lebanon, a country that hasn't had that many new missionaries in a decade.

Karl and Thelma Weathers of Arkansas, and Gary and Jeree White and Russell Futrell of Louisiana all have come to Lebanon with a firm conviction that it is God's place for them, in spite of the daily hazards of living here.

Jeree White grew up in Lebanon as an MK (missionary kid) and always had an inclination to come back, but her husband, Gary, used to say, "I would never go to Lebanon." It took a long process of prayer and thinking to change his mind.

The Weatherses feel God gave them no choice. "We waited 11 years for a mission appointment, and the first time a job that suited our qualifications opened up, it was in Lebanon. So we didn't doubt that we were supposed to take it," they said.

They were appointed to work with the Beirut Baptist School. They have two children, Eddie, 13, and Elizabeth, 12.

Futrell first came to Lebanon as a journeyman in 1978. God had used many different people and events to bring him to that step. For two years, he worked among university students in west Beirut. They were tumultuous years in Lebanon, but Futrell, who had friends of all political persuasions, rarely let the tension and violence prevent his moving around with people.

But he did have a few narrow escapes. Once late at night he almost drove into the middle of a small-arms skirmish on a Beirut street. To avoid it, he turned into a driveway, where he suddenly found a pistol at his temple as a man demanded to be driven out of the area. Futrell escaped out the other side of the car and into an apartment house.

When he left Lebanon, he promised everyone he was coming back. By the time he finished a master's degree in linguistics at Louisiana State University and a year at New Orleans

Seminary, the situation was more uncertain than ever in Lebanon.

Futrell was strongly encouraged to go to some other country. Even the mission in Lebanon didn't think it wise for him to live in Beirut and sent him to Jordan for a year of language study. (Two years of language study

routinely are required in the Arabic-speaking world.)

At the same time, the Weatherses, also under appointment to Lebanon, were asked to go to Jordan for their first year of language study. They went, but deep inside they felt that

(Continued on page 7)

New lesson writers begin this month

New writers of Sunday School lesson commentaries for the Baptist Record began their contributions with the Jan. 2 issue.

Billy McKay, pastor of First Church, Belzoni, is writing the Bible Book series. Peter McLeod, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, is doing the Life and Work commentaries. Gus Merritt, pastor of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, is commenting on the Uniform lessons.

Billy McKay moved to Belzoni in 1979 from the pastorate of First

Church, Madison. A native of Leake County, he was graduated from Mississippi College. He received B. D. and M. Div. degrees from Southwestern Seminary and a doctor of ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

His other pastorates have included Zama Church, Attala County; Forest Church; and Main Street Church, Goodman. He has served as moderator of the Humphreys Baptist Association and as vice-chairman of

(Continued on page 5)

MBREA convention planned for Biloxi

The spring convention for the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association will be Feb. 20-22 at Ramada Inn, Biloxi.

Program guests will be Ron Lewis, Richard Ross, Peggy Wood, Gerald Harris, and John Yates.

Lewis is senior consultant for Growth Designs, a Nashville-based church growth organization. Ross is youth consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Wood is conference leader and consultant with the Sunday School Board. Harris is pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. And Yates is a music evangelist in Jackson. Harris and Yates will be the Bible study music team for the convention.

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20 and the Saturday session will feature a buffet breakfast with the program closing afterwards.

Staff wives will have several separate activities planned including a visit to Bellingrath Gardens.

Child care can be arranged by contacting A. V. Windham, at Hillcrest Church in Jackson prior to Jan. 15.

Association President Bill Davidson, minister of education at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, said that room costs at the Ramada Inn in Biloxi are \$30 per room, not per person as an earlier communication to association members indicated.

To join the association, contact Windham at 3102 Monticello Drive, Jackson, Miss., 39212.



DARING TO CARE—Thelma Weathers, one of five new Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon, gives a smile and a hug to the child of a student at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. Although well-meaning relatives and friends think they might "get themselves killed," she and her husband, Karl, are resolute in their desire to work at the Beirut Baptist School. (BP) PHOTO by Frances Fuller.



Church born in Trinidad

Baptists in Trinidad celebrated the recent "birth" of a church on the West Indies island. The "maternity ward" was a home overlooking the Maraval Valley, where 65 people gathered for the first service of Maraval Baptist Mission, sponsored by Patna

Baptist Church. The service was led by Southern Baptist missionary Clarence Jackson (seated at right of pulpit), who works with the Patna congregation. (FMB) Photo by Willard Goforth.

Nunnery expresses gratitude for Crestwood contributions

Through the contribution of funds remaining in its accounts to Mississippi Baptist Foundation for the use and benefit of the Baptist Children's Village, Crestwood Baptist Church of Jackson, on Dec. 5, completed its dissolution. Earlier, the church building, situated on Bailey Avenue in Jackson, had been contributed by the Crestwood membership to Hinds-Madison Association.

At a brief, informal ceremony in the Foundation office, trustees and other lay leaders of Crestwood presented a check in the amount of \$25,684.00 to Harold T. Kitchings, representing the Foundation, and Paul N. Nunnery, representing The Children's Village. Kitchings and Nunnery, jointly acknowledging receipt of the gift, announced that it would be invested by the Foundation as a part of The Village's General Endowment Fund, identified as Crestwood Baptist Church Memorial Fund. Interest earned from the investment will be disbursed by the Foundation to The Village.

In expressing his gratitude to the Crestwood membership, Nunnery, executive director of The Baptist Children's Village, pointed to the Mississippi Baptist Convention unified endowment campaign, The Mississippi Mission, which is designated to increase the endowment of The Village and the state's three Baptist colleges. "The generosity of our Crestwood friends, as represented by this outstanding contribution, is encouraging and will be of material assistance toward meeting our ambitious goal in this effort, which is so

critical to The Village's future," said Nunnery. He further commented at length upon the 41-year period during which Crestwood Church served as home church for all of the agency's staff and children and the substantial interest which the church and its membership had retained in The Village's child care ministry.

According to Nunnery, a history of the child-care agency records that J. R. Carter, the second superintendent and chief executive officer of the institution, then known as Mississippi Baptist Orphanage, joined with others in organizing and constructing a church "in a corn patch on Bailey Avenue" in 1917. Responding to an initial cash pledge by W. J. Davis, the church was constituted as Davis Memorial Baptist Church, later to be designated Crestwood Baptist Church. From 1917 to October 1, 1958, staff and children from The Village attended Sunday School, Training Union, and worship services at Crestwood. According to Village records, Nunnery said, a deep supportive, personal and affectionate relationship developed between the two institutions and among the congregation, children, and staff of the children care agency, then located on Woodrow Wilson Drive, a few blocks from the Church.

A resolution adopted by The Village's board of trustees in 1958, recites, in part: "— This Board of Trustees does hereby acknowledge a great spiritual contribution to the lives of the hundreds of children and adults of this institution which has been made by Crestwood Baptist

Church and its membership over the past years —"

"Village trustees and administration are profoundly grateful to the Crestwood membership for choosing our ministry with troubled children and their families as a worthy beneficiary of this magnificent gift," Nunnery stated. "It is rewarding and unusually appropriate to note that this addition to our endowment fund will insure, to eternity, the influence for good and for God which Crestwood Baptist Church and its fellowship has represented in our mission, and in the lives of unfortunate children for so many years," he said.

Million given to law chair

WACO, Texas (BP)—Joseph L. Allbritton and his wife, Barbara, have honored Baylor University President Emeritus Abner V. McCall by donating \$1 million to the Baylor School of Law to establish an endowed chair in McCall's name.

The Allbrittons, who live in Houston and Washington, have donated the money to establish the Abner V. McCall Chair of Evidence. The chair is the seventh endowed chair in the Baylor School of Law, according to Charles W. Barrow, professor of law and dean of the law school.

McCall has been at Baylor more than 50 years as a student, professor, law school dean, president, chancellor and now president emeritus.

Journeyman applications face Jan. 15 deadline

RICHMOND, Va. — Those who want to be included in the next group of journeymen from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board must have their applications postmarked by Jan. 15.

The journeyman program seeks four-year college graduates age 26 and under who are interested in using their skills on overseas mission fields for two years.

Applicants must be active Southern Baptists, U.S. citizens, and qualified for specific mission tasks. If not single, they must be childless and married for at least a year. Also, they must be in good physical and emotional health.

About 100 requests for journeymen this year have come from mis-

sionaries all over the world. Especially needed are teachers and youth workers. Other assignments are open for agriculturalists, library workers, secretaries, bookkeepers and nurses. One dentist is sought for Nigeria.

Applicants selected will begin training in June at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., and go to the field upon completion of training.

This past summer the board commissioned 66 journeymen to work in more than 35 countries. Another 42 have been selected for training in March.

Those interested in applying for the 1986-88 journeyman program should phone Wendy Norvelle in the board's Personnel Selection Department at (804) 353-0151.

Postal rate goes up for BR

WASHINGTON (BP) — A continuing resolution approved by Congress and signed by President Reagan Dec. 19 increased postal rates for non-profit mailers, including state Baptist newspapers and some church newsletters.

Beginning Jan. 1, non-profit organizations faced an increase of approximately 30 percent in subsidized rates, including non-profit second-class, third-class and bulk mailings.

The increase results from a reduction of federal subsidy to provide reduced mailing rates for non-profit publications. The continuing resolution contains only \$748 million for fiscal year 1986, which runs through

September 1986.

Although the figure falls \$233 million short of what the Postal Service says it needs to maintain the present level of subsidy, it significantly exceeds the \$39 million proposed by the Reagan administration. The president recommended the termination of the subsidy except for benefits to organizations that send materials to the blind.

Non-profit and other subsidized mailers have been at step 14 of a 16-step plan begun in 1970 to phase out the postal subsidy. The new increase, however, catapults non-profit mailers to step 16 six months before step 15 was scheduled to take effect.

Evangelical loses in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (EP) — In November, Jorge Serrano Elias failed in his bid to become the first evangelical Christian to be elected head of state in Latin America. He finished third in a field of eight, failing to make the runoff.

Efrain Rio Montt, an evangelical, served as president of Guatemala, but he took over through a military coup.

Serrano, 40, an active layman in the 15,000-member Pentecostal Elim Church, captured 13.8 percent of the vote, but beat out some well-established right-wing parties.

GLORIETA

**Ski Bible Conference
December 13 through
April 14**

Ski 3 full days at Santa Fe Ski Area or Sandia Ski Area for \$154.00 per person. Four nights' lodging for 4 per room, 8 meals, 3 day lift ticket, equipment rental and instructions, if desired. A cross-country ski package available Jan-Mar.

Outstanding Bible study provided in the evenings.

MORE INFORMATION contact Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535. (505) 757-6161.

Not available December 24 & 25.



Mississippi Baptists give 97.3 percent of '85 budget

The Mississippi Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program receipts for 1985 were \$487,145 less than the anticipated goal of \$17,500,000, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

"Our dreams of supporting urgent mission causes around the world caused us to establish goals that were obviously too high for the year," said Kelly. The goals are set each year during the annual convention meeting of messengers from the nearly 2,000 participating churches in the state.

"Actually the churches are to be commended for increasing their gifts through the Cooperative Program by \$1,221,003 over the 1984 receipts," said Kelly. He reported that for the past eight consecutive years the churches

have averaged increasing their Cooperative Program giving annually by \$1,223,103.

Kelly said that the budget planning committee of the Convention "was burdened by the overwhelming needs within our state and around the world when the 1985 budget was established. The Convention prayed and planned for a greater percentage of church participation through the Cooperative Program than they were able to do," he said.

The shortfall means that the funds needed for expenses in the following categories were not met: colleges—\$107,695; missions causes within Mississippi—\$172,923; and Southern Baptist Convention causes—\$170,491.

December giving totaled \$1,418,149, an increase of \$327,072 over that of

1984. Total giving for the year was 97.3 percent of the 1985 budget.

"The Convention Board will of necessity be required to do more conservative planning in the future," said Kelly, who noted that the 1986 budget goal is \$18,550,000. "Cooperative Program receipts depend on the percentage of giving through the local churches to the mission causes represented in the Cooperative Program, and the amount of funding available for churches to use in establishing their budgets depends on the commitment of the individual members of each church," he said, adding, "The battle going on in the world to defeat Satan is a costly battle. When the battle is won it will be won by committed Christians. Commitment costs something. If our faith is genuine we cannot think of taking without giving."

Moore hasn't been asked to run for SBC post, he says

By Lacy Thompson

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—Winfred Moore, first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, denied recently that he has been approached officially by anyone to be a candidate for the Southern Baptist Convention-presidency.

The First Baptist Church of Amarillo (Texas) pastor added he is hoping for a unifying candidate to emerge to lead the 14.4-million member convention. "I really do have a longing for someone to arise about whom everyone would say, 'We will follow this man as our president.'"

Moore denied he has anyone in mind as a unifying candidate or that he has been looking for such a person. "You just hope that out of the process of finding a peaceful solution (to the controversy in the SBC), there would be somebody," he noted.

Moore said he has not done "any planning one way or another" concerning his candidacy for the SBC presidency. "I just have a commitment to getting our convention back to doing what we do best," including missions involvement.

At the 1985 SBC meeting in Dallas, Moore was nominated for the presidency in opposition to incumbent Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta. Stanley won the presidency by receiving 55.3 percent of the vote. Moore was then nominated and elected as first vice-president.

Rumors persist Moore also will be the 1986 moderate candidate and will apparently oppose Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. Rogers has been named by several conservative leaders as their choice for SBC president in 1986. Rogers says he has not decided yet whether he will be a can-

didate for the office.

Moore, noting that talk of himself as a "moderate" candidate is contrary to his view of himself as conservative, said he sees no inherent conflict if one or more of the members of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee are candidates for the presidency.

"I think it's all in the way in which they perceive their work. I would surely hope if I am a candidate or Dr. Rogers is a candidate... that whatever is done would be done in such a way that it would not affect the work of the Peace Committee."

The committee was formed at the 1985 SBC meeting for the purpose of determining the causes of the current SBC controversy and making recommendations about how to solve them. Moore's optimism has grown. group's success.

"I think we're in much better shape than we were in when we left Dallas. I have high hopes," he said. "I've been pleased with the Peace Committee as it's gone about it's work."

Lacy Thompson writes for the Louisiana Baptist Message.

Griffin Bell named for Crowder lawsuit

ATLANTA (BP)—Former United States Attorney General Griffin B. Bell has been retained by the Southern Baptist Convention to represent the convention in a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta.

On Dec. 5, a retired Birmingham, Ala., couple and a retired Navy chief from Windsor, Mo., filed suit against the SBC and its Executive Committee, claiming they were "irreparably harmed" by rulings, presiding, and events at the 1985 annual meeting of the convention in Dallas.

The suit, filed by Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, and Henry C. Cooper, seeks to have the election of the SBC Committee on Committees, Boards and Standing Commissions declared illegal and to prevent the 52 persons elected to the body in Dallas from serving as the nominators of persons who serve as trustees of the

national agencies of the denomination.

Papers in the suit were served to the SBC just before Christmas, according to SBC attorney James P. Guenther of the Nashville, Tenn., law firm of Guenther and Jordan. Guenther said the SBC must file a response to the 18-page complaint by Jan. 20.

Guenther said Bell and the Atlanta law firm of King and Spalding will be the Georgia representatives of the convention and Executive Committee. Guenther and SBC Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett have had a conference with Bell, planning the response.

Bell was attorney general during the presidency of fellow Georgian Jimmy Carter, serving as the attorney for the government 1977-79. Previously, he was judge of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Civil Appeals from 1961-76.

Bell is a member of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, has been a trustee of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, and Mercer University, Macon, Ga.

New lesson writers begin this month

(Continued from page 3)

trustees of William Carey College. During 1985, he was part of a partnership evangelism team which spent some time preaching in Korea. He and his wife, Faye, have three children.

Peter McLeod was born in Shotts, Scotland. He was graduated in Scotland from a College of Engineering, and in the U.S. from Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., and New Orleans Seminary. He came to Hattiesburg from the pastorate of First Church, Chattanooga, Tenn. In earlier years he had served pastorates in Waco, Texas; Lexington, Kentucky; and Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.; and had been associate minister, Second Ponce De Leon Church, Atlanta.

While in Texas, he was second vice-president of the Texas Baptist convention, 1971-72, and was a member of the board of directors for the Pastoral Counseling Service of Central Texas. His articles and sermons have appeared in various Baptist publications, and he has been the producer of radio talk programs for youth and singles. He has spoken often, nationally and internationally, to both secular and religious groups. His wife, the former Lila Moore, and he have two sons.

Augustus Q. (Gus) Merritt, a native of Marion County, Mississippi, was graduated from Mississippi College and studied at New Orleans Seminary. He was in the U. S. Army during the Korean conflict.

He and his wife, the former Faye Purvis, have a son and a daughter.

Merritt, pastor of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, since 1975, formerly served First Church, Lexington; Montgomery Hill Church, Baldwin County, Ala.; University Church, Mobile; Riverside, Pascagoula; and

Memorial Church, Citronelle, Ala. During 1970 and 1971, he was assistant pastor and minister of education at First Church, Grenada.

He has served as Mississippi Baptist Convention Board member, as a member of the state Committee on Committees, as an approved worker in Sunday School and Evangelism departments, and on the Board of Ministerial Education. His articles have been published in various papers, including the Baptist Record.

BTN to transmit youth ministry teleconference

A youth ministry teleconference will be transmitted live over BTN, the Baptist Sunday School Board's educational television network.

The program will take place at 7 p.m., Mississippi time, Jan. 13 and the transmission will be unscrambled. This means that even those who do not subscribe to the service may tune in to SpaceNet 1 at 120 degrees west, with the satellite tuner set on Transponder 21.

A special showing will take place at the Baptist Building in Jackson with youth ministers invited to arrive at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and dialogue afterward.

The program will discuss youth ministry and trends with possibilities for live call-ins over a toll free number. On hand will be Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant for the Sunday School Board, and Merton Strommen, founder of Search Institute and author of "Five Cries of Youth," and "Five Cries of Parents."



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Mississippi Baptist activities

Jan. 12 Witness Commitment Day (EVAN Emphasis)
Jan. 12-19 Deacon Emphasis Week (CAPM Emphasis)

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

Ridiculous optimist

Editor:

I am writing today. Three days after Christmas I turned 48 years.

I am smiling because:

I am employed.

I am in good health.

I am well fed.

I am clothed.

I am sheltered.

I have economic power.

(middle class)

I am a prisoner of Hope, that Hope is in Jesus Christ who sets this prisoner free.

I am a "ridiculous optimist."

Richard Brogan
Clinton, MS

Thanks for support

Editor:

Last week I had the privilege of receiving my master of divinity degree from the Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. I would like to thank all those in my home state of Mississippi whose sacrificial giving helped make it possible for me to train in such a fine seminary.

During my three years at Southern, both my knowledge of Scripture and my commitment to the biblical revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ have been deepened. I have found the faculty at Southern to be men and women who are without exception dedicated to the biblical truths which we all share. Their teachings and Christian example both inside and outside the classroom have greatly assisted in my spiritual development and have deepened my sense of responsibility as a Christian minister.

Thank you again for your generous support of our fine educational institutions.

Paul Knight

associate pastor

Lower Burrell Baptist Church

Louisville, Ky.

Testimony of faith

Editor:

I'd like to share this testimony with you. This was a small Mississippi Baptist church. If you can use this testimony, feel free.

Kennie Patterson

41365 Unit 7

Parchman, Ms 38738

But my God shall supply ALL your need according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus. —Phil. 4:13

"It was very hard for me to hold Susie and watch her cry and tell me that we didn't have enough money for Christmas or for the four-day leave that we are going to get to spend together at the family visiting center here at Parchman Prison.

"I was out on a speaking engagement from Parchman, raising money for our Spiritual Life Center and preaching the gospel of Jesus. We were to visit two National Guard units early Sunday morning and a church

service at eleven. That night I was invited to preach; and Susie, my wife, and Susie, our sister in the Lord, were going to sing together. My wife, was going to sing for the first time and was afraid. She has had a real battle over this and was going to step out on faith that night.

"As Susie and I cried together, she told me that for us to be able to go over to the family visiting center it would cost \$200. So, as we prayed for our needs, I asked God to show Susie in a special way that her singing for him was his will for her.

"All the next day people kept putting money in mine and Susie's hands, but for some reason I never thought to count it. We have been to many churches but never had the people ever given Susie and I any money.

"After the service we were getting me ready to come back to Parchman, and Jesus told me to count the money we had received. Susie counted it all, and we had exactly 201 dollars to the penny. Just what we had prayed for with one dollar extra! Susie said, "Last night we cried because we were sad, and tonight we're crying for joy." Yes, our God is real, and He is able!"

The Sumrall preachers

Editor:

An era in the life of a "preaching" family came to an end in the recent death of Rev. Troy Sumrall. Troy was the last of four preacher boys of the James "Buck" Sumrall clan.

Troy passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 21. His memorial service was on

Sunday, Dec. 22, with interment at Runnelstown Cemetery. His wife, Ethel, had preceded him in death on Aug. 19. Troy's ministry had spanned more than 40 years, divided between Texas and Mississippi. A graduate of Wayland College and Baptist Bible Institute (now New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary), he pastored Immanuel, Hattiesburg, before moving to Texas. After retirement, they returned to their native state, where Troy served as director of missions for Perry County Baptists, then numerous interim pastorates. His power and loving affection for people kept him in constant demand.

Three other brothers were well known as they served pastorates in Mississippi and Texas. The eldest was S. E. (Elbert). He was a Southern Seminary graduate and pastored at Bay Springs, Lake, and smaller rural churches.

My dad, T. D., was next in age and was called to preach from the teaching profession. He was a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and pastored churches in Texas and Louisiana before coming to East McComb in 1952. He was a pastor/evangelist and averaged five revivals per year.

D. D. was the second of the four to enter the ministry. A graduate of Southwestern Seminary, he served his entire ministry in Texas. For several years he was one of four state evangelists under the Department of

Evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

In humble thanksgiving, my family bows to thank God for his hand of blessing upon us in calling these men to the gospel ministry. With fond memories, we believe that hundreds came to know Christ and that more than 50 churches were pastored by Sumrall servants.

To God be the glory!

Tom Sumrall, pastor

First Baptist Church

New Albany, Mississippi

Pastor in Germany

Editor:

Trinity Baptist Church in Metterich, West Germany has recently been informed that our pastor will be leaving in May 1986. We are now in the process of seeking God's will in the calling of a pastor. Trinity Baptist Church is located halfway between Bitburg and Spandahlem, West Germany. Our membership is primarily military personnel and families coming from some 19,000 Americans connected with either Spangdahlem or Bitburg Air Bases. Therefore, we are in need of a spiritual leader who is capable of coping with the ever changing congregation due to the military lifestyle. We have an average Sunday morning attendance of 175 and are financially stable. We are one of the few churches within the European Baptist Convention to own its own building and our church is founded upon the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

We request your assistance in making our needs known to any individual who feels led to minister to a military community here in Germany. We would request a resume of the pastor's work, a brief history of his life, and a sermon tape.

Please disseminate this information as much as possible so we can begin correspondence with anyone interested in coming to Metterich. Thank you for any assistance you might give and we solicit your prayers as we try to live within God's will.

Please address all replies exactly as follows:

Ann Kelb

Box 4055

APO New York, NY 09132

Ann Kelb

corresponding secretary

pastor search committee

God is the designer

Editor:

Behind every design there is a "designer." The designer must possess intelligence; the more intelligence he has the better is the designer's ability to design. Whether the design is the world famous Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower, an animal or a human being, a designer plans the "finished" product. Most buildings are designed by professional architects.

In the design of the human physical form a high degree of intelligence was needed. As an example, in the design of the human hand, there are four

fingers, a thumb, fingernails, a palm, knuckles, etc. The Bible account of the Creation and design of the earth, animals, and man credits Jehovah God as the "designer." The average person cannot understand the great intelligence that God possesses. Man, must accept by faith this unseen Spiritual Being (God) as the designer of the heavens and the earth.

Conversely, there are some who say that the process of evolution (development by change) designed man and the animals on the earth. These evolution folks say that single-cells in water years ago got together and grew into living things from which animals and man descended. Question: How did man acquire a larger brain than any of the animals if not by design? Man and animals just did not happen—they were designed by intelligence of a high order!

Therefore, it is more logical for me to accept by faith that an unseen Spiritual Being (God) with intelligence was the designer of the earth and all that is in it. I'll accept the Bible account of creation as narrated in the Book of Genesis, Chapter 1, page 1, of the Holy Bible.

NOTE: Just because I cannot see God does not mean that God does not exist! I cannot see electricity but if I touch a "hot" electric wire, I'll know what electricity is.

Robert S. Leigh
Jackson

Good from bad

Editor:

I noticed in The Baptist Record that Homer Lindsay and other preachers are promoting Adrian Rogers for the next president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Their support of him is not surprising to me. What is surprising is their openness in revealing that they will demand that messengers from their churches vote as they do or not be invited to go to the convention. If they succeed in controlling their people in that fashion, then those people will go as delegates and not as messengers. The fundamentalists are finally showing their true colors. They desire to control their churches and their convention.

If they continue to elect their champions, then the rest of us can throw the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer out the proverbial window. We will have "popes," not pastors, in our churches.

On the other hand, the liberal element is just as dangerous as the fundamentalist element. "Holy war" causes disaster regardless of the names we give to those who wage it. It seems our choice is to either take away from the message of the Bible, or to put words into the mouth of Jesus Christ. Neither of these choices is a viable option for me.

There are times when I feel suspended in space. Here I am, a Baptist preacher with strong convictions about God's Word, missions, evangelism, Christian education, and gratefully appreciative of my Baptist heritage; and yet I am not represented by the liberals nor the fundamentalists. I feel that I am caught between a rock and a hard place.

Perhaps, someday those of us who

(Continued on page 9)

Devotional

It takes more than bread

By Shirley Oglesby

Exodus 16:14-36

Matthew 4:4

Today there is more information, instruction, and advice on what it takes to enable man to get more out of life than ever before. This advice comes from many different experts in many different disciplines, and is given to us through various forms. Yet Christians have had the answer to this question for centuries.



Oglesby

After Jesus declared his life's mission and was "taken away" for the temptation period, Satan, as is characteristic, showed his wily self. He waited patiently for forty days and nights, until he knew that Jesus was weak and vulnerable, to begin to tempt him by trying to convince him that he knew how to satisfy his hunger. "Command these stones to become bread." This was a simple answer, a quick solution to the problem. Jesus, while hungry enough, also knew that simple solutions are often useless. He knew that four hours later he would be hungry again. Instead, being strong in the Word, he refuted Satan by using, "It is written that man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." How wonderful that Jesus knew "what was written."

So often we try to live a successful Christian lifestyle on bread alone. We fail to find out "what is written." We rely on what we learned as children in Sunday School, a revelation from the Word received last year, what the preacher preached on last Sunday. We have yet to learn the lesson God tried to teach the Israelites when they had arrived at the sad conclusion that they had rather be slaves and have bread than to be free, under God, and hungry. To satisfy their weakness God sent bread along with meat. However, this special bread, manna, was to be consumed each day. It was to be a daily meal. And yet, we hold on to yesterday's experiences, trying to live on stale manna.

Hopefully, this year, we can commit ourselves, anew, to developing the habit of reading, meditating and using the Word to commit ourselves to receiving fresh manna from God each day as it pertains to our life and our living with others.

Remember if Jesus, the Saviour, Creator, Redeemer, felt the need to resist Satan with God's word, how much more you and I. This year let us realize that we cannot live on bread alone.

Shirley Oglesby is consultant, Church Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Thompson, Bester, Logan

Leonard Thompson led the closing prayer in chapel at the Baptist Building on Friday, Dec. 20. It was one of the most beautiful, and most heart stirring, prayers I've heard.

Later that morning a reception was held in honor of Leonard, and of three other of my good friends who were retiring — Walter Logan and Beulah Bester in December and Raul Garcia in January. These three were employed with the maintenance department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Leonard had worked jointly with Building Services and with the Baptist Record for 22 years. All this time he has delivered copy to our printer, and brought back Baptist Records fresh off the press, always with a cheerful, cooperative spirit. Already I miss him.



Leonard Thompson

He is church treasurer and chairman of deacons at the Ross Chapel Baptist Church, Gluckstadt, in Madison County. At age 19, in 1939, he joined this church and was baptized there; he has been a member of Ross Chapel ever since. He was ordained as a deacon in 1955, and taught church school for 25 years.

He was born Oct. 24, 1920, in the Gluckstadt community, one of 11 children of Frank Thompson, farmer, and Curley Lee Archer Thompson. Before he began work at the Baptist Building, he was employed with J. P. Wade Company in Jackson.

All this time I've worked with him and didn't know until recently that he fought in World War II. "I was born after World War I," he said, "and in World War II, I was in the Army three years and five days. I fought in Italy, in the 92nd Division. We landed at Naples in August, 1944." He saw most of Italy. "I visited Genoa, where Columbus was born, and was in combat not far from the Leaning Tower of Pisa."

When he was growing up, his family moved close to Canton. That's where he met Luella Lambert, whom he married in 1947. They have five children and five grandchildren. The daughters and sons are Curley Lee Phillips, Madison, named for her grandmother; Ruby Jean Smith, Jackson; Leonard Jr., Jackson; Lee Andrew, Houston, Tex.; and Robert

Earl, Cleveland, Ohio. Luella has now begun work with the maintenance department of the Convention Board. The Thompsons live at 2247 Overbrook, Jackson 39213.

Besides Baptist Record delivery service, Leonard has had many other duties. He worked in the mailroom, picked up mail and delivered mail bags to the Post Office; took checks to the bank; delivered packages for various departments; kept our "snack table" in the kitchen loaded with goodies; and ran endless errands for a seemingly endless list of people.

His retirement plans do not call for a rocking chair, he most fervently asserts. He doesn't plan to sit down much for a while yet. "I would like to do volunteer community work," he told me, "to do something to help other people." Though he hasn't fished in a long time, he likes to, and might have more time for it. What he hates most — "things unbecoming to a Christian" — he will continue to "stay away from," like "highfalutin' parties and all the drinking they do there."

His favorite Bible verse, he told me, is Psalm 107:1. This did not surprise me, for it reflects the kind of attitude I've seen in him through the years. "Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endureth forever."



Beulah Bester

Beulah Bester has worked for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 17 years, since the "new" Baptist Building opened. All that time she has spoiled the rest of us employees here, making the coffee just right, keeping the dishwasher filled, getting ready for parties and covered dish dinners, setting up coffee for conferences, cleaning out the refrigerator We all love her — not just because she did so much for us, but because she is such a lovely, patient, unselfish person and she looks at life in such a positive way. "I look at the good things in life," she said, "not the bad."

Before Leonard Thompson began work with the Baptist Record, the late Robert Burrus delivered our copy to the printer for a long number of years. His talented wife, Carrie, is Beulah's aunt! (Carrie lives at 1618 Topp Ave.,



Beulah Bester, Leonard Thompson, Walter Logan, and Raul Garcia were given a retirement reception at the Baptist Building Dec. 20. Here Mrs. Bester greets Vonda Clower, secretary to Chester Vaughn.

Jackson.) That got Beulah off to a good start with me in the beginning!

Beulah was born in Humphreys County, near Belzoni, where she was reared by her grandmother, Sarah Billip. Her one sister, Viola Thomas, now lives in Muskegon, Mich. Her husband, Sam, to whom she has been married for over 40 years, took disability retirement ten years ago. Her daughter, Blanchie Wells, also lives in Michigan.

The Besters moved to Jackson in 1942, during World War II. He was in the army four years, part of the time in overseas combat.

Now a member of the Pearl Grove Baptist Church, Jackson, and a member of its missionary club, she was baptized at Pleasant Green Church, Humphreys County, at age 12.

This winter she plans to clean her house, she told me, at 1343 Holloman, Jackson 39213. "Next summer I may look for part time work, if I can find something I think I would like to do." Before she came to the Baptist Building, she worked for some of the Hedermans in Jackson.

Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23:1 — "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want."

Her dream is that retirement may be as happy and successful as has been the time she spent at work. And that, Beulah, is my wish for you!

Walter Logan, who has worked for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 16 years, and before that for Sears 17 years, says he's rather glad to stop now and have some time at home. He's been dreaming of completing some home improvement projects on his house at Tougaloo. Probably he'll do a bit of what he likes to do best, too—watch ball games.

Walter told me that the person who has had the most influence on his life was his father, George Logan, who was a Holiness preacher. George and his wife, Julia Barron Logan, lived in Simpson County at Magee, and Walter was one of twelve children.

After he served in World War II, Walter married Amanda Lee Logan, also of Simpson County, in 1946; they moved to Jackson in 1949. Amanda was a Baptist, and Walter was baptized at age 23 at the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Simpson County. However, later both of them joined the Church of God in Christ, Jackson,

Thursday, January 9, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

New missionaries arrive in Lebanon

(Continued from page 3)

everyone concerned should understand that they were called to Lebanon and should be permitted to go there.

They already had faced a lot of open opposition from well-meaning family members and friends who felt they would "get themselves killed" or that it was unfair to take two children into a war zone. Such statements also caused the children to become apprehensive.

Living in Lebanon turned out to be the best antidote to those fears. Eddie and Elizabeth study by correspondence under the supervision of a young American teacher. Their main problem is the lack of friends their own age who speak their own language. A little gunfire now and then doesn't upset them.

The Whites first were appointed to Jordan and spent a whole term there before asking for a transfer. "The easiest thing," Gary says, "would have been to go back to Jordan. We have deep friendships there. Our two children are Jordanian. (The Whites have adopted children, Susan, two-and-a-half years old, and John Bill, six months.) We did a lot of praying and thinking before we knew we were called to Lebanon."

White adds, "You have to be called to Lebanon; otherwise, you wouldn't come."

Five days after the Whites arrived in Lebanon, there was an afternoon of heavy shelling. Two shells fell in the front yard, and Gary threw himself across the baby to protect him from flying glass.



Robert Logan, Walter Logan, Walter Logan, Jr.

where he is a member now.

The hardest problem he has ever had to face, Walter said, was the death of his wife November 13, 1978. His children are scattered about in different states. His sons were home for Christmas. Robert, the oldest, lives in Chicago and is a welder.

Walter Jr. works at Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian. A daughter, Ernestine Bradley, lives in California. There are eight grandchildren; one, Marcus, is deceased.

Robert told me they would all likely have their dad traveling all over the country now to visit them. Since his wife died, Walter has done his own cooking, and I was asking about his favorite recipes. Robert said, "He does cook, all right, and we can eat it. But he doesn't have a specialty!"

At the Baptist Building Walter kept the carpets vacuumed, and the lobby and kitchen waxed and mirror-

Jeree, daughter of Bill and Vivian Trimble, missionaries in Lebanon since 1961, says, "It takes a certain kind of person to live here." With a laugh, she says, it takes "a crazy person," and then becomes serious again.

"We live here with the basics—just life and death. Even the mission has narrowed everything down to the basics. But the Lord has given us a love for these people that I can't explain. I want to be an encourager."

In fact, their presence already is doing that. In meeting new missionaries in the Mansourieh Baptist Church, a young believer commented, "It encourages us to have new missionaries coming, when a lot of other people are leaving."

Frances Fuller is a missionary press representative in Lebanon.

Associations adopt expanded annuity plan

Associations that have adopted the expanded annuity plan for '88 for their staffs:

Adams, Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun, Carroll-Montgomery, Choctaw, George, Greene, Grenada, Hinds-Madison, Holmes, Humphreys, Lawrence, Leake, Lebanon, Lee, Leflore, Marion, Northwest, Panola, Pike, Pontotoc, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union, Walthall, and Wayne

shining. He brought ice to the kitchen for our tea every day at lunch, and did all kinds of clean-up tasks, always with good cheer. His pleasant greetings and nice smile we will miss. He and Beulah came to work several hours ahead of the rest of us each morning.

One of his favorite scriptures is from Proverbs 3—"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

I asked if there were some parts of his job he didn't like. He said, "Sometimes. But I always thought worrying about something you have to do makes it worse. I just go ahead and do it and get it over with!" You'd never know by his demeanor that anything was ever disagreeable.

Thanks, Walter, for a job well done.

(Raul Garcia will be working on through January, so I'll talk about him later.)

Youth ministry potential increases with new role

By Jim Lowry

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)—New responsibilities, expanded ministries, and longer tenures on the church staff seem representative today of a new role for Southern Baptist ministers of youth.

More than 100 ministers of youth gathered here for a Youth Ministry Wide-area Conference to share information and ideas, examine failures, and study the effectiveness of their ministry.

In the past, youth ministers have been thought of in terms of several myths, most of which are not true today, said Richard Ross, coordinator of youth ministries in the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and conference director.

Church members used to expect youth ministers to be at or near the age of youth in the church, Ross said. His contact with 1,400 ministers of youth over the past year reveals a different picture.

"The trend today is toward a higher median age among youth ministers,"

he said. "Church members are seeking youth ministers who will work with the entire family to minister to youth. The ministry to parents is a relatively new area for youth ministers, but one in which great gains can be realized."

"There are very few places in life where teens come into contact with adults who accept them for what they are."

Because churches are accepting and expecting a higher median age among youth ministers, tenures and salaries are increasing, Ross said. He added that a major research survey will be released in 1986 on ministers of youth.

Another myth which has followed youth ministers over the years is they need to speak the slang language of youth and serve as a cheerleader who provides a steady schedule of events and activities.

Youth ministers attending the conference agreed that the events and ac-

tivities route was a major reason for short tenures in the past. After a youth minister completed a one-and-a-half to two-year list of activities, he needed to move to another church to go through them again.

Adults as youth ministers can be successful over a longer period if they will communicate to the youth "unconditional love, unconditional acceptance and affirmation. There are very few places in life where teens come into contact with adults who accept them for what they are," Ross said, pointing out, "One of the joys of staying in a church a long time is the satisfaction of watching the spiritual growth of a teenager over a period of years."

Ross said youth ministers should schedule at least the equivalent of two evenings and one full day off every week for family or personal business. Worry about church youth and families is done at the expense of the minister's family many times, participants commented.

Jim Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.

House passes tax reform to reinstate housing benefits

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON, (BP) — The House of Representatives has passed a proposed tax reform plan which would reinstate clergy housing benefits but also would strip church pension groups of their federal tax-exempt status.

In passing the Tax Reform Act of 1985 by voice vote Dec. 17, House members ended a weeklong struggle between Republican congressmen and President Regan. Republican members led an effort which kept the tax reform measure from reaching the House floor on the originally scheduled date. Reagan's lobbying efforts, however, convinced many of his maverick party members to bring the measure to the floor for debate and eventual passage.

Should the bill, in its present form, be passed by the Senate and signed into law by the president, ministers would regain the ability to claim mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions as well as tax-exempt housing allowances.

Under current tax law, only ministers who occupied their residence or had a contract to purchase one by Jan. 1, 1983, are eligible to declare mortgage interest and property tax deductions in addition to tax-exempt housing allowances. That eligibility is scheduled to extend only through tax year 1986.

The new measure would make revocation of current law retroactive, meaning ministers unable to claim mortgage interest and property tax deductions for tax years 1983 and 1984 would be able to file amended returns.

Another section of the Tax Reform Act would repeal tax exemption for

any nonprofit organization if a "substantial part of its activities consists of providing commercial-type insurance," explaining such insurance "shall be treated as an unrelated trade or business."

Specifically exempted from the definition of "commercial-type insurance" is property or casualty insurance provided by churches or conventions or associations of church. But the measure specifies further that "annuity contracts shall be treated as providing insurance."

In essence, the bill's language would strip the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and other church pension groups of their federal tax-exempt status.

Although the legislation technically would take effect Jan. 1, 1986, the House passed a nonbinding resolution which would delay many of the changes for a year.

Other provisions of the bill which would affect churches and church employees include:

—allowing churches which elected to claim exemptions from paying Social Security taxes for their non-

ministerial employees to revoke that election.

—penalizing a participant who designates a portion of his salary as a "catch up" device for years in which he was able to put little or nothing into a retirement plan. This provision would forbid participants in a regular retirement plan for investing also in Individual Retirement Accounts.

—reducing contribution limits for amounts which can be contributed to denominational retirement plans.

—imposing penalties on distributions — or funds withdrawn — from retirement plans before age 59½, other than for death, disability or "life-based" annuity payments.

—imposing new minimum distribution rules and a 50 percent tax on those retirement funds not withdrawn at the time of eligibility.

According to informed Senate sources, the tax reform measure will not reach the Senate Finance Committee until at least the last of January and action by the full Senate will not be taken before mid-1986.

Kathy Palen writes for BP's Washington Bureau.

Mardi Gras witness set

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Witnessing teams from Baptist churches will work with Roy Humphrey during Mardi Gras this year for the final time.

He has announced his retirement as pastor of the Vieux Carre Baptist Church for later in the spring. The church, located in the French Quarter,

is where teams are housed for the annual evangelism project.

Witnessing events will begin a week prior to Mardi Gras, which is Feb. 11, he said.

"There is a limit to the number of team members we can handle at the church. But we do have sleeping accommodations for 55 persons," said Humphrey.

Missionary News

David and Gloria Glaze, missionaries to Argentina, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Broadmoor Missionary Home, 721 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39206). Son of Jack and Jean Glaze, former missionaries to Argentina, he was born in Louisville, Ky., and lived in Argentina. He considers Jackson, Miss., his hometown. The former Gloria Marler, she was born in Tyler-town, Miss., and considers Jackson her hometown. Daughter of missionaries, Parkes and Martha Ellen Marler, she also lived in Korea and Guam while growing up.

Robert and Ruby Williams, missionaries to Niger Republic, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: BP 10038, Niamey, Niger Republic). He is a native of Portland, Texas, and she is the former Ruby Williamson of Columbia, Miss.

James and Gloria Hare, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 919 W. Avenue D., Garland, Texas 75040). A native of Gulfport, Miss., he also lived in Waco, Texas, while growing up. The former Gloria Jeannette Ross, she was born in Flagstaff, Ariz., but also lived in Crystal City, Lancaster and Garland, Texas, while growing up.

Ralph and Joyce Davis, missionaries since 1950, retired from active missionary service Dec. 1. They served in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, until their transfer to Ghana in 1969. They served in Tamale, Ghana, where he was principal of the Baptist Training Center and adviser to the Tamale and Liberty Baptist Association. She also worked at the training center and with women in the Tamale and Liberty association. They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Paulding and also lived near Quitman and Hattiesburg. She is the former Joyce Merritt of Hattiesburg. They may be addressed at 108 S. 17th Ave., Hattiesburg, Mo. 39401.

Victor and Martha Bowman, missionaries to Chile, have completed language study and arrived on the

field (address: Casilla 280, Antofagasta, Chile). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Brandon and considers Pelahatchie his hometown. The former Martha Martin, she was born in Jackson and considers Mendenhall her hometown.

Daniel and Sharon Bradley, missionaries to Kenya, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: P. O. Box 302, Long Beach, Miss. 39560). They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Gulfport. The former Sharon Freret, she was born in Gulfport and grew up in Saucier.

Van Winkle will sponsor "Good News" meeting


Van Winkle Church, Jackson, is sponsoring a "Good News America Evangelism Conference," March 9-11 at the church.

Speakers include Bailey Smith, an evangelist from Oklahoma; Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile; Ron Herrod, pastor of First Church, Kenner, La.; Guy Henderson, evangelism director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; and Davis Odom, pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Van Winkle pastor Donnie Guy said the conference will be geared to soul-winning and revival preparation. "part of the aim will be to reach people for Christ during the services," he said.

Guy said Monday and Tuesday morning will be given to evangelism classes. Services will be Sunday evening, March 9 through Tuesday evening, March 11.

Those interested in staying in private homes may contact the church at 4240 Carter Cir., Jackson, Miss., 39209 or phone 922-3513 or 922-8249.




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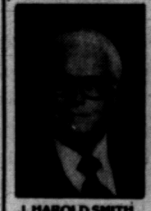
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New Orleans Seminary conferred doctoral degrees on five from Mississippi during December commencement exercises. Left to right are David L. Claxton, Th.D., of Clinton; Kenneth Holt, D.Min., of Iuka; Landrum Leavell, seminary president; and Jimmy A. Smith, D.Min., of Kosciusko. Receiving doctorates in absentia were: Charles Anthony Boudreaux Jr., Ed.D., of Marrero, La.; and Danny Michael Panter, D.Min., of Roseland, La.

"As a Christian, he need not be afraid of fetishes"

By Larry and Cheryl Cox

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso—Many people have come to know Christ in our area, but because their culture is so steeped in superstition, it is difficult for many new Christians to be completely free of the fear they have known all their lives.

Riding the four-wheeler and dodging millet stalks, they were traveling a well-worn narrow footpath to church in the village of Pisingyadin. Larry's traveling companion was Augustin, a 16-year-old new Christian who works with him in his agricultural development work. Rounding a sharp curve, they skidded to a halt as the path was blocked at the intersection of another footpath by a woven basket turned upside down. Maneuvering through the millet field, Larry realized that someone had set up an altar as the villagers often do at a "crossroads." In a culture that worships spirits and ancestors, no one would dare remove someone else's fetish.

Larry and Augustin continued on their trip and soon arrived at a brush arbor packed with people singing praises to the Lord accompanied by loud clapping and rhythmic drums. The service was led by a young man from another village who had been a Christian only one year. His first contact with the Gospel was through a literacy class where he learned to read and write. At the close of the service 23 people enrolled in a new Christian's class in preparation for baptism.

After participating in another service in a different village, Larry and Augustin headed home by the same route. Larry forgot about the obstacle in the middle of the path, and unable to dodge it, he ran over the edge of the basket causing it to flip over, revealing the fetish's small clay pots and vases filled with some liquids under the basket. Augustin became hysterical. They stopped the motorcycle and he explained to Larry that because they had destroyed the altar they would become gravely ill and would possibly die.

Because Augustin was so stricken with fear Larry explained to him that as a Christian he need not be afraid of fetishes. Right there on the path Larry shared with him some scripture and they prayed together. Then Augustin told Larry, "I will never be afraid again because Jesus gives me courage."

Mississippians Larry and Cheryl Cox are missionaries to Burkina Faso.

Letters: Good from bad

(Continued from page 6)

are caught in the middle will decide that enough is enough. But until we do, we face the possibility of a split convention with neither side representing us. That possibility causes a hollow feeling deep inside of me.

Maybe there is a way out of this dilemma. I do not know the outcome

of the struggle. However, I serve a God who can make good things happen from bad situations. It is my prayer that he will do that in the present crisis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rex Yancey, pastor
First Church, Quitman

Mississippians are graduated from New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS — Twenty-five students with ties to Mississippi were among more than 110 graduates receiving degrees during the 68th annual commencement exercises at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Listed by the degree earned, the Mississippi graduates include the following:

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY: Charles Anthony Boudreaux Jr., Pascagoula; Danny Michael Panter, Pascagoula; Jimmy Andrew Smith, Booneville and Kosciusko, pastor of Parkway Church, Kosciusko, and chaplain with rank of Captain, U.S. Army Reserve; Kenneth Zane Holt, Iuka (pastor, Philadelphia Church, Lithonia, Ga.).

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY: David Louis Claxton, Jackson, assistant pastor, minister of evangelism, and minister to singles, Parkway Church, Jackson.

MASTER OF DIVINITY: Michael Royce Benefield, Magee, assistant minister of youth, Calvary Church, New Orleans; Timothy J. Glaze, Picayune, minister of youth, Pine Grove Church, Picayune; Michael Mark Hawley, Rolla, pastor of Fellowship Church, Enterprise; William Thomas Martin, Yazoo City, pastor, Canal Boulevard Church, New Orleans, Luther M. Robertson Jr., Caledonia; Frank Oliver Rice, Escatawpa; David Lynn Roberts, Brookhaven; Joe Michael Russell, Bailey; Barry Alan Swartz, Tupelo; Michael Ray Walsh, Forest; Terry Lee Williams, Waynesboro, pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee; Gregory Gene Winningham, Mendenhall, pastor, River Hill Church, Jackson, Ala.

MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Thomas Arnold

Broadhead, Meridian, minister of education, Morgantown Church, Natchez; Thomas M. Gillon, Grenada, minister of music and youth, New Zion Church, Covington, La.; Demetria Lynn Koleas, Horn Lake; Stephen Lavelle Parish, Natchez, minister of education, Edgewater Church, New Orleans; Cynthia Marie Still, Pascagoula; Michael Ray McVay of Pensacola, Fla., minister of music and education, Green's Creek Church, Petal, Miss.

MASTER OF CHURCH MUSIC: Donald Mitchell Henderson, Jackson, associate minister of music/media, First Church, Jackson.

ASSOCIATE OF DIVINITY IN PASTORAL MINISTRY: Henry L. Freeman, Columbus, pastor, Park Haven Church, Laurel; Justin W. Morgan, Morgantown, associate pastor, First Church, Columbia.

Chaplains try to comfort families of crash victims

By Sherri Anthony Brown

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (BP) — "First you cry. Then you're numb. Next you smile because you remember something good. Then it starts all over again," explained Ladeana Ladd, a 21-year-old fiancée of Wayne Reed, one of 248 soldiers killed in the Newfoundland air crash.

"I don't ask why, though, because it wouldn't do any good. It won't bring Wayne back," she told Capt. Douglas Carver, a Southern Baptist Army chaplain at Fort Campbell.

Carver, one of 11 Southern Baptist chaplains on the base, has spent the days since the crash visiting family members of the slain soldiers. One of Fort Campbell's 32 chaplains will visit each of the families at least once.

The soldiers, representing many division and post military units, died when their chartered Arrow Air DC-8 plane crashed on takeoff early Thursday morning. They were returning from a six-month peacekeeping mission on the Sinai Peninsula in the Middle East.

Many of the family members already had gathered at the base gymnasium where the soldiers were to arrive after their debriefing, said Southern Baptist Chaplain Bill Fox.

Fox and the other chaplains spent the first 48 hours after the crash working with families on the base. "We tried to bring comfort and the presence of God to these people when we were hurting, too," said Southern Baptist Chaplain Don Yancey. Capt. Troy Carter, a fellow chaplain, died with his unit on the Arrow flight.

"Christmas makes it seem even more tragic," commented Carver.

Ladd, a Southern Baptist, was waiting to accompany her fiancée to his Washington home to meet his family and announce their wedding plans.

Because she was not married, Ladd was not notified of Reed's death. She asked Carver to arrange for her to

represent the family at the memorial service. Ladd asked President Reagan, who visited family members following the ceremony, to sign a photograph of Reed for his mother.

She was to present the photograph to Mrs. Reed in Washington, where she would be at the expense of the Army chaplains' fund. "I wanted to spend Christmas with his mother. I have a part of Wayne that she doesn't have and she knows a part of him that I don't know," she explained. "We can share that." Ladd was also to stay for the funeral.

"I didn't want to talk to you that first morning," Ladd confessed to Carver, "but I'm glad I did. It's a comfort to know someone cares."

Carver also visited a young widow three days after the crash. On her wall, amid Christmas garland and Santa Claus, was a sign which read, "Welcome Home." She sat on the floor of her trailer, surrounded by wedding photos — and a Western Union telegram officially announcing the death of her husband.

"I'm 20 years old. I'm too young to live the rest of my life without him," she told Carver. "Our first anniversary is next week."

Carver encouraged her not to waste her sorrow but to learn and grow from it. "I want to pray for strength through this time," he told her. The woman nodded, wiped at her tears and bowed her head.

"The worst part is the question, 'Is my husband in heaven?'" Carver said later. Often Carver could assure her that her husband was with God, but he could not always make that assumption.

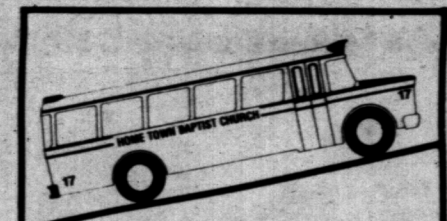
"With some it was obvious there had been a casual Christianity, at best, but you certainly cannot tell a grieving wife that her husband is going to hell," he explained.

Sherri Anthony Brown writes for the Home Mission Board.

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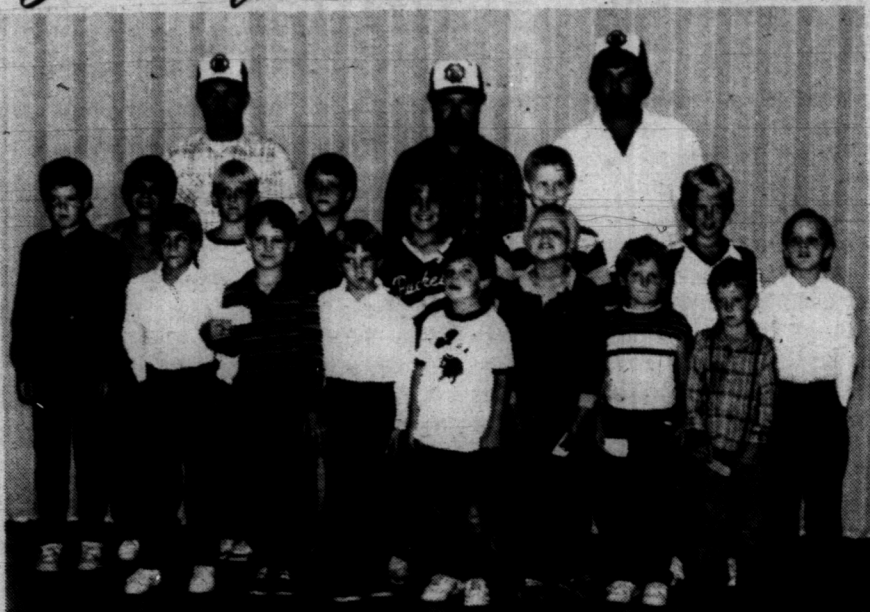
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Just for the Record



Puckett Church, Puckett, recently held a pinning ceremony for RAs. From left (front row) they are Russell Searcy, Wilson Purser, Richie Meares, Eric Harrison, Marty Letchworth, Justin Williamson, Vince Murphy, Johnathan Miley; (second row): Brent Purvis, Michael Allen, Jeremy Greer, Jason Smith, Michael Means, Jaime Miley, Thomas Calhoun; (third row) leaders are Prentiss Calhoun, Scottie Purvis, and Reggie Allen. Alvin Doyle is pastor.



Acteens of First Church, Gautier were recently honored at a recognition service. Pictured front row are Vicki Haygood, Queen; Janna Holifield, Queen; Lisa Marks, and Laurie Gautier, Queen Regent.

Second row, Renea Stringer and Kelli Sullivan, Queen Regent.

Third row, Gina Brooks and Angie Price, Queen Regent.

Fourth row, Lara Usher, Queen with a Scepter; Jamie Griffin, Queen Regent; Deborah Irwin, Queen Regent.

Kenna Durham, Rachel Price, Hedy Usher, Queens and Jennifer Bustin, Queen Regent (not pictured).

The leaders are Sue Fayard, Karen Gautier, Francelle Sanderford, and Reba Koski.

Black Jack church will host open house for new education facilities Jan. 12

Black Jack Church near Vaughan will host an open house for new facilities on Sunday, Jan. 12, from 2-4 p.m.

Black Jack Church observed Dec. 8, 1985, as a day of dedication for its recently completed educational facilities. During the morning worship service, James K. Allgood, a former pastor of 29 years, delivered a message entitled "The Nature and Mission of the Church." Harold T. Kitchings, executive-secretary of the

Mississippi Baptist Foundation, delivered a message entitled "Dedicated to the Glory of God." Kitchings' father, the late A. A. Kitchings, was a former pastor. The congregation was then dismissed to the new fellowship hall where a responsive reading of dedication was read followed by a prayer of dedication by Ken Anderson. This day of dedication marked the beginning of Anderson's fifth year as pastor.

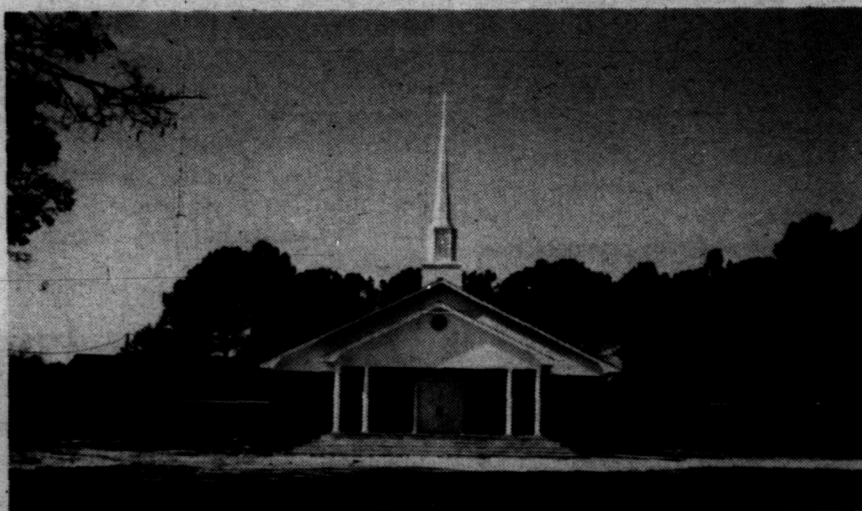
The new educational annex is the

first major addition to the church since its original construction in 1925. The addition includes a fellowship hall, kitchen, library, pastor's study, and several classrooms. Ground was broken on July 21, 1985. In addition to the new facilities, the existing educational facilities have been remodeled.

Members of the building committee include Charles Nichols, chairman; Jack Chester; Marjorie Dixon; Yolanda Fisher; Velma Hearst; and Donnie Pepper.



First Church, Runnelstown, held a note burning on Sept. 15. In Sept., 1983, the church borrowed \$15,000 to add to \$10,000 to purchase land and small house adjacent to the church. The debt was paid in full in less than two years. The trustees (left to right) are Dewey Campbell, George Lee Carter, Aubrey Blackwell, and Danny L. Chaney, pastor. The church has plans to purchase a new steeple soon.



Sunrise Church, Hattiesburg will hold dedication services for new sanctuary and educational facilities, Jan. 26. Services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and an afternoon song service with special guest will follow the noon meal. Ken Davis is pastor.



The GAs of First Church, Ridgeland, recently held an recognition service. Pictured, front row, (left to right), are Stacy Goodwin, Jackie Stepp, and Christy Ross. Second row, Ruth Smith, Loren Tillman, Christy McKenzie, Heather Norris, Mandy Anderson, and Candace Kelly. Third row, Susan Riley, Barbara Avery, Karen Rhinewalt, and Rachel Arnold. Doris Langham is the director. Diane Kolb, Brenda McKenzie, and Martha Norris are the teachers. Ed Griffin is pastor.

CCC school stopped

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (EP) — Plans by Campus Crusade for Christ to build a Christ-related university on 5,034 acres of land it owns in San Diego were stopped short in November when San Diego voters approved Proposition A, halting until 1995 any development of land owned by Campus Crusade, as well as 15,000 additional acres nearby.

Life is what you make it, or what it makes of you.

A lot of people spend more time placing the blame than rectifying the trouble.



The Youth Disciples of Linwood Church, Neshoba Association chose as a mission project "Hunger in Ethiopia." They walked 7 miles and raised \$400.00.

Pictured, front row, (left to right), are Barbra Tingle, Shea Willis, Toni Breland, and Tammy Neese. Second row, Jeremy Collins, Harold Munn, and Jeff Coats. Third row, David Collins, Betty Dunn, Patricia Collins, and Chris Collins. (Not pictured) Lawrence White. Pastor is Johnny Collins.

Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary, Jan. 18 and 19. There will be a breakfast, 9 a.m., Sat., Jan. 18, with James Travis of Blue Mountain College, featured speaker. The anniversary sermon will be delivered by Jack Nazary, 2 p.m., Sun., afternoon, Jan. 19, following a church-wide luncheon. Tommy Vinson is pastor.

Lottie Moon gifts go over goal

First Church, Winona, reached its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$11,500 in one day. To date, the church has given \$12,192 for the 1985 Christmas offering. Stanley and Glena Stamps, missionaries to Honduras, were guest speakers for the congregation's "All the Way in a Day" celebration. Jerry Mixon is the pastor.

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Names in the News

Mrs. Cathy Jeffcoats, minister of education, Parkway Church, Natchez, was honored, Dec. 15, on the occasion of her fifth anniversary. Under the leadership of Mrs. Jeffcoats, the Sunday School enrollment has increased from 1,150 to 1,282 and the average weekly attendance has also increased from 446 to over 500. She and her family were recognized during the morning worship hour, and a reception in her honor was held during the afternoon.

John Brock Jr. was ordained to the ministry at First, Ackerman on Dec. 29, where his father is pastor. Brock recently was called as pastor of Shady Grove Church, George County. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Mrs. Gladys Eady Thornton, 73, of Crystal Springs died Tuesday, Dec. 24, at Hinds General Hospital in Jackson. She was the mother of Mrs. Elton (Jane) Greer, an employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, at Stringer Funeral Home, with burial in New Zion Baptist Church cemetery. Mrs. Thornton, who had lived in Crystal Springs all her life, was a member of First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs. Survivors other than Mrs. Greer include three other daughters, Mrs. Sam (Idelle) Nichols and Mrs. Terry (Gay) Beck, of Jackson, and Mrs. Phillip (Joyce) Slay of Crystal Springs; a sister, Mrs. Estelle Mann of Seattle; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Her husband, Willie Thornton, died in 1980.

Corky Farris, professor at Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, will teach the book of Hebrews at Colonial Hills Church, Jan. 12-15. Services will begin at 6 p.m., Sunday, and 7 p.m., Mon.-Wed. Tommy Vinson is pastor.

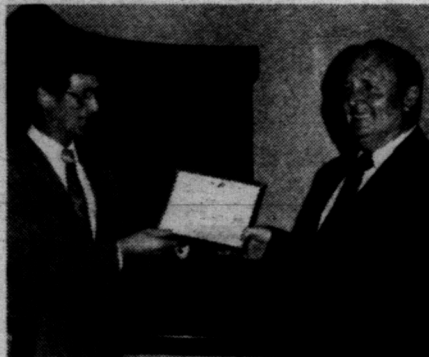
Roger Darren Price of McComb received the master of divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., during commencement exercises on Dec. 14. Price is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Felton R. Price. He is a graduate of Millsaps College.

Daphne Cooley, 12-year-old daughter of Frank Cooley, minister of music at First Church, Ripley, is in Room 4036 at Baptist Medical Center, Jackson. She recently underwent very serious surgery.



Chad Grantham (right) and Dylan Smith (left) have received attendance pins. Grantham, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Grantham received a nine year pin. Dylan Smith, 3½, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Smith, and nephew of Grantham received a three year pin. Both Grantham and Smith attend Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia. Jerry Jones is Sunday School director and D. L. Stephens is pastor.

John L. Searcy is presently available for music director or part-time pastorate. He received his education at Clarke College and Mississippi College and has 25 years experience in the ministry. Searcy can be contacted at (601) 537-3398 or Rt. 4, Box 205-A, Morton, Ms. 39117.



E. P. Baldwin (retired), member of Shiloh Church, Alcorn Association, went to Argentina on a mission trip in May of 1985. He is shown (right) receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Foreign Mission Board. Presenting the certificate is Lyndle Davis, pastor of Shiloh Church.

John A. Durden, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Durden, Jr., received a master of divinity degree from Mid-America seminary, Dec. 18. He graduated cum laude. Durden is minister of youth and music at Church Road Church, Nesbit.

Jerry Mixon will be a guest on the Good Morning South Mississippi show, Jan. 14. Mixon will discuss his book, OFF THE MAIN ROAD. Following the television show which is aired on channel 13 in Biloxi, an autograph party will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Christian Book Shoppe, Gulfport.

Ken McMillen, pastor of First Church, Byhalia, and his family were honored with a surprise celebration for his 5th anniversary as pastor, and the 17th anniversary of his ordination by Second Church, Calhoun City.

Jerry Nichols, chairman of deacons, presided over the program. The church is in the process of remodeling the sanctuary and educational building into a fellowship hall and educational space, which will cost close to \$50,000. During the year, First Church paid off the bonds on its new buildings.

Others on program were J. R. Reagh, Mrs. Delane Andrews, Angela Anderson, Mrs. Waurene Goings, and Mrs. J. C. Rochester. McMillen was presented a recliner at the conclusion of his special day.

Keith Stephenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Stephenson, 2206 E. Northside Drive, Jackson, received his master of arts in marriage and family counseling degree from Southwestern Seminary on Dec. 20, 1985.

Hubert G. Street, 85, of Clinton, died Dec. 22. He was the father of James W. Street, pastor of First Church, Cleveland. Funeral services were held Dec. 23 at First Baptist Church, Clinton, where he was a member. A native of Benton County, he was graduated from Mississippi College and received his master's degree in education from Peabody College. He had taught school, had served as internal auditor with the State Board of Health for 42 years, had served a term as alderman in Clinton, and was a real estate broker. Other survivors in addition to his son are his wife, Mrs. Ruth Watkins Street, Clinton; two daughters, Mrs. Gary (Margaret) Cahill, Jackson, and Jean Street of Meridian; one brother; two sisters; and four grandchildren.

You have the right to be wrong and hopefully the wisdom to know that you are.

Christian broadcasters plan to 'blanket the planet' by year 2000

CHATHAM, N.J. (EP) — Leaders of the world's three largest Christian broadcasting organizations have agreed to cooperate in an effort to blanket the planet with the gospel by the year 2000.

"We are committed to provide every man, woman and child on earth with the opportunity to turn on their radio and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ in a language they can understand, so that they can become followers of Christ and responsible members of his church," said the joint statement issued by the presidents of HCJB in Quito, Ecuador; Far East Broadcasting Company; and Trans World Radio.

The statement noted that radio can cross barriers — like the Iron and Bamboo Curtains — that prevent missionaries from entering many countries. "Not even television could ever get into countries like China or the Soviet Union... but we can!" said Ron Cline, president of HCJB. Shortwave signals can travel thousands of miles, and the three major Christian broadcasters already preach in more than 100 languages.

A committee formed by the three broadcasters has begun research to determine exactly which people are not able to hear the gospel at present. A report is expected by June 1986.

Staff Changes

Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, recently called Rick Swing as minister of youth and recreation. Swing is a graduate of The Citadel, where he was honorable mention All American in basketball. He played professionally with the Cleveland Cavaliers, Athletes in Action, and Spirit Express. He assumed his responsibilities Jan. 1.

West Pleasant Grove Church, Clarke County, has called J. Hardee Kennedy as pastor.

Timothy Jones of Dyersburg, Tenn., is the new pastor of Shady Grove Church, Pontotoc County.

Ralph Mitchell, new pastor of Tocopola Church, Pontotoc County, was ordained Dec. 29 at First Church, Pontotoc.

Westside Church, Copiah County, has called Willie Wright as pastor.

Keith Stevens, a native of Drew, has joined the staff of Mt. Zion Church, Independence, as minister of music and youth. He goes from Calvary Church, Slidell, La. where he served as minister of music. Stevens, a graduate of Delta State University, received the master of church music degree in December. Austin Moore, Jr., is pastor of Mt. Zion Church.

Dexter Ware, pastor of New Providence Church, Copiah County, has resigned and will be teaching, and also doing supply preaching.

Stan McGlamery, pastor of Georgetown Church, Copiah County, has resigned; he has accepted the pastorate of El Bethel Church, Tampa, Fla.

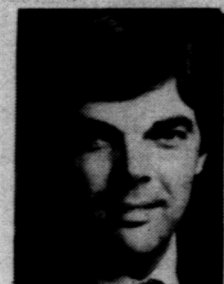
Martin Chastain has resigned as pastor of Brookway, Lincoln County.

Off the Record

"Time sure changes things," an airline passenger told his companion. "When I was a boy, I used to sit in a flat-bottomed rowboat in the lake down there below us and fish. Every time a plane flew over, I'd look up and wish I were in it. Now I look down and wish I were fishing."



Tommy Gillon, a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary, has accepted the position of minister of music and youth with Second Church, Greenville. He began serving the first Sunday in January. Gillon is married to the former Sheryl McGee and they are the parents of two children.



M. William Wright, Jr., Westson, has recently been called to Westside church, Hazlehurst as pastor. He goes from Robinhood Church, Brandon. A welcoming reception was held in honor of Wright and his family.

Singleton Church, Louisville, has called Stan Costilow as pastor. Costilow will commute to Clarke College, Newton, from Louisville, where his family now resides in the pastorium.

Costilow will be ordained, Jan. 12, at Calvary Church Newton.

Friendship Church, Lowndes County, has called Robert Moore as pastor.

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BSU dresses nine children

During December, the Baptist Student Union at Jones County Junior College dressed nine children and had Christmas at the center for them. Pictured above are seven of the nine children. This is one of the many mission projects the students become involved with. Students are not only asked to raise funds, but are also asked to give of themselves and their time to help others. J. F. Sumner Jr. is director at Jones.

United Methodist minister can take superiors to court

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — A Methodist clergyman fighting forced retirement will be able to meet his superiors in court, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to block such proceedings. The Court let stand a lower panel's ruling that William E. Alberts is entitled to take two church officials to civil court.

Alberts, formerly pastor at Old West Church in Boston, was forced into retirement in June, 1983. Bishop Edward G. Carroll and then-District Superintendent John E. Barclay recommended the move, which was ratified by the 300-member body of district clergy. Albert's troubles with district officials were made public in late 1972 and early 1973 when he broke off psychiatric care he was receiving, and then performed a wedding for two homosexual men against the wishes of his Bishop.

After his forced retirement, Alberts sued for reinstatement, as well as monetary damages for mental anguish, loss of earning power, and damaged reputation. A lower state court agreed with church officials that civil courts have no jurisdiction over such matters, but the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court disagreed. That court said that civil courts do have jurisdiction because the case does not involve religious doctrine or internal organization.

Baptist Record

• Uniform: *The inwardness of morality*
• Life and Work: *A new sense of mission*
• Bible Book: *Instructions on prayer and worship*

Instructions on prayer and worship

By Billy McKay
I Timothy 2:1-15

Introduction: The key verse in I Timothy is 3:15, which instructs believers in how they are to conduct themselves in public worship. Chapter one states that the basis of the church's organization in worship is proper doctrine.

I Timothy 2 and 3 deal with the organizational life of the church. Right doctrine and right living (cf. I Timothy 1) should produce right organization (cf. I Timothy 2-3). It is wise to note the order Paul uses. Right organization can't produce right doctrine and right living. Illustration: When Peter preached a clear gospel in Acts 2:14-26 he then exhorted them with many other words (cf. Acts 2:40). Acts 2:42 says the new church

members continued in four things: the apostle's doctrine (Bible study), fellowship (church attendance), breaking of bread (ordinance of the Lord's Supper) and in prayers (public prayers).

The overarching purpose of this organizational plan of the church is the salvation of all men (2:4).

In this chapter we see three divisions: I. The priority of prayer in the church (2:1-7). Prayer is so closely connected to Christian worship that Jesus quotes Isa. 56:7 in Matt. 21:13, in which the temple is called a "house of prayer." Notice that he says that prayer is "first of all" in 2:1.

Note the following: A. The outline of prayer (2:1a). Four aspects of prayer are given. Note that they are all in the plural. This means that the believer must keep on praying. First,

there are "supplications." This is prayer out of a deep sense of need. We are weak, inadequate and cannot handle life without God's power. Secondly, there are "prayers." This word refers to our total dependence upon God. Thirdly, there are "intercessions." This refers to our personal petitions. The idea in the word means to enter into a king's presence with a petition. Fourthly, there is the "giving of thanks." This is a translation of the word "euchomai" from which we get the word eucharist. Some churches use this word to refer to the Lord's Supper. It is the word used in I Cor. 11:24 in which Jesus "gave thanks" in connection with the Lord's Supper. The principle is that prayer is not all asking; it is also thanking.

B. The objectives of prayer (2:1b-7). Specific persons are mentioned to pray for in verse 2-3. Specific purposes

are mentioned in verse 4. Verse 5 deals with the mediatorship of Jesus Christ. A mediator is one who is equal with both parties. Jesus is equal with God in that he is God. He is equal with man in that he is man. This truth forms the basis of our assurance that God hears our prayers. Probably no New Testament passage stresses the universality of prayer and worship better than verses 1-6. The word "all" is used four times (1:1,2,4,6). Paul does not intend for believers to go to church to sit, soak and sour, but to go to church to pray for the salvation of all persons. Verse 6 points out the provision for all men's salvation: the ransom of Jesus Christ. In verse 7 Paul uses himself as an illustration of one who is using three spiritual gifts to get out the gospel. Are we doing the same?

II. The place of men in the church

(2). High Moral Conduct (vs. 16-17).

Rebuilding of the Temple and restoration of worship must go hand in hand with high moral conduct says the prophet. In this emphasis we have one of the unique contributions that Judaism made to world religious thought—that the way we live and the way we worship cannot be divorced. An ethical God demands ethical conduct among his people.

Abraham was the first man in recorded history to make the linkage between religion and ethics. In Genesis 18, where we have recorded his pleading with God for Sodom and Gomorrah, his question, "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" (v. 23) marks a significant breakthrough. In essence he was saying, "If you are God worthy of worship, you must be an ethical God!"

For the Christian, Jesus' description in Matthew 25 of those who will ultimately enter the Kingdom of

(2:8). Three conditions of prayer are set forth for the men of the church.

First, prayer is to be without defilement ("holy hands"). Second, prayer is to be without disharmony ("wrath"). Third, prayer is to be without doubting.

III. The place of women in the church (2:9-15). This passage has often been a battleground for interpretation. We must remember when we approach any difficult passage that the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible! We must interpret the obscure and difficult passages of the Bible with the clear ones. We can be sure Paul is not being negative against women. Too many other passages speak to the contrary (e.g., Gal. 3:28; Eph. 5:21-33). Paul supports his instruction for women on the basis of scripture passages from Genesis which he alludes to in 2:13-14.

Billy McKay is pastor, First, Belzoni.

A new sense of mission

By Peter McLeod
Zechariah 8:1-23

Focal: 8:13-17, 20-23

One of the real needs within the contemporary church is for believers to recover a sense of mission. Not just foreign missions, home missions or state missions, but the sense of personal mission inherent in our calling as believers. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus underscored this central responsibility when he stated that his followers were to "go and make disciples." Even the promise of empowering Spirit in Acts 1:8 is inextricably wed to mission responsibility. "... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ..." (NIV) In God's plan for his people and his world, privilege and responsibility go hand in hand.

This is the basic theme of God's

covenant relationship with his people beginning with Abraham. In Genesis 12:2 God says to Abraham, "I will bless you ..." indicating Abraham's privilege, but it is followed by "All the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you ..." (v. 3) denoting his responsibility. That dual role continued through Isaac, Jacob, and Moses; and we are confronted by its demand once again in Zechariah. Through His prophet, God tells the returning captives that he will bless them beyond their imagining (8:6), but with that blessing will come their responsibility for helping other nations come to know him and to worship him. (vs. 20-23).

In order to help them move from the present reality to the future glory they would experience, Zechariah gave the people direction and action.

(1). Rebuild the Temple (vs. 13-15).

The Temple symbolized for Israel God's presence with them. When the Temple was destroyed in 587 B.C. it was a devastating blow to the Israelites. The people felt forsaken by God. Upon their return from captivity one of their major objectives was rebuilding the Temple (v. 9).

Last year I had the privilege of visiting in Jerusalem and observing devout Jews from around the world as they celebrated and prayed at the famous "Wailing Wall." I was deeply moved and impressed by the incredible significance, both socially and spiritually, that the wall held for contemporary Jews. If a mere wall can evoke such passion, what emotions must have been unleashed by the sight of the rebuilt Temple to returning Israelites?

The inwardness of morality

By Gus Merritt

Mark 7:1-23; Matthew 5:21-30

Tradition may have its roots in a practical background. The emphasis on hand washing came from a concern for good personal hygiene. The law had a practical as well as a religious significance. The dietary law and other emphases regarding health and cleanliness was to preserve Israel as a nation. Through Israel the Messiah came. God did not want Israel to suffer from the diseases of the pagan societies (Exodus 15:26).

Some years ago a young married couple were enjoying a meal at home. During the preparation for the meal, the young wife cut off the end of the ham she was preparing to bake. The husband asked, "Why did you cut off the end of the ham?" The wife's reply, "My mother always did it that way." The wife's mother visited them the next day and the husband asked his mother-in-law, "Why do you cut off the end of a ham before you bake it?" Her reply, "My mother always cut off

the end of her hams before baking them." A week later, the young couple went to see the wife's grandmother. During the visit the husband asked his wife's grandmother, "Why do you always cut off the end of your hams before you bake them?" The grandmother answered, "Because my baking pan is too short." This story illustrates how tradition may have a good reason for its beginning but have no reason for its continuance.

The washing of hands to the elbows moved from a personal hygiene emphasis to a rigid religious observance with little practical value. Outward purity became emphasized to the exclusion of inward purity.

The real danger of tradition comes when it replaces the teachings of the Bible. It is very easy for tradition or man made teachings to take precedence over scripture. Jesus pointed this out to the Pharisees in Mark 7:9-13. The scriptures provide a foundation of solid rock in matters of faith and practice. Tradition is like a foundation of sand, always shifting

with constant changes being made by adding to or altering it.

Another danger is the danger of emphasis upon the external rather than the internal. What we do or don't do will not make us holy. Holiness is an attitude, not an attainment. When true holiness is produced within by the Holy Spirit, it will influence what we do and don't do. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) is the character and holiness of Jesus produced within by the Holy Spirit, it will influence what we do and don't do. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) is the character and holiness of Jesus produced within with the result it is displayed outwardly. Whenever the external display of religion is displayed without the inner purity and holiness, it is fatally flawed. Under pressure the true nature of the inner person will come forth. If the inner person is not controlled by the Holy Spirit, the display under pressure will be less than desirable.

In Mark 7:17-12, Jesus teaches that we should be more concerned with what comes from within than what we

put into our body. Jesus is not saying we should be careless about what we eat or drink, but he is saying that our primary concern should be with inward purity.

That which comes from within and defiles the person is the unclean attitudes and motives which produce the evil acts. In I John 1:8, the root of sin is revealed, the sin principle. In I John 1:10, the fruit of sin is in view being produced by the sin principle within. A person is not a sinner because he sins but a person sins because he is a sinner. A sinner must sin. One cannot help one's self. After a person accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, God gives the Holy Spirit to live within and makes the believer a new creation (II Cor. 5:17). For the believer, God did not make it impossible to sin but did make it possible not to sin.

The best time to begin teaching moral values is in the home. The child's formative years is the critical time to instill good moral values. The proverbs tell us, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is

old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

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